

# IACC Quarterly

IACC Quarterly

Summer 2006

## Inside this issue:

<i>DOT Update</i>	<b>2</b>
<i>State Historic Courthouses</i>	<b>3</b>
<i>CDBG Helps Rural Towns</i>	<b>4</b>
<i>Funding List</i>	<b>6</b>
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	<b>7</b>
<i>Home Repair Loans &amp; Grants</i>	<b>8</b>
<i>WSDOT, and WaWizQuiz</i>	<b>9</b>

## IACC Quarterly

IACC Quarterly is produced quarterly by the Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council (IACC), which promotes partnerships among federal, state, and local programs, works to enhance efficiency and coordination in the delivery of financial and technical assistance, acts as a forum to discuss issues that get in the way of helping local governments meet their infrastructure needs, and sponsor training workshops and conferences in these arenas throughout the year.

### Editor

**Christina Gagnon**

*Chris.Gagnon@DOH.WA.GOV*

## Looking Back Over A Very Good Year

As the IACC Quarterly Newsletter celebrates its second anniversary, it is a good time to reflect on progress made over the years:

Of most significance, the IACC Conference has increased in popularity over the years – so much that it is now held on an annual basis. The conference is an effective way to provide local governments, tribes and others jurisdictions, especially rural communities, an opportunity to learn

about technical assistance and funding sources for infrastructure projects. Nearly all

reviews, regulatory requirements, legal support, construction, and operation and maintenance.

Other progress includes:

- ✦ Infrastructure database. This database is the primary resource for locating infrastructure funding or technical assistance in Washington State.

- ✦ Technical teams. These teams consist of funding staff, regulatory

*Continued on page 2*



funding programs and technical assistance providers are represented, including planning, engineering, design, financing, environmental

## IACC 2006 Fall Conference Update

The IACC Conference is scheduled for October 31 – November 2, 2006, IACC's 14th conference in the past 20 years!

The conference will take place at the Wenatchee Conference Center, and will be well attended by state and federal financial assistance programs, local government representatives, consultants, and trainers.

We hope that you can join us! Questions regarding the conference can be directed to:

Bill Cole at (360) 586-4125  
[bill.cole@pwb.wa.gov](mailto:bill.cole@pwb.wa.gov);

Cecilia Gardener at (360) 586-4127 or [cecilia.gardener@pwb.wa.gov](mailto:cecilia.gardener@pwb.wa.gov).

For information on the 200+ funding and technical assistance programs, visit the IACC web-

site at [www.infracfunding.wa.gov](http://www.infracfunding.wa.gov).

### If you are interested in:

- Presenting a program or training session, please contact Chris Gagnon at (360) 236-3095 or [chris.gagnon@doh.wa.gov](mailto:chris.gagnon@doh.wa.gov)

- Reserving a vendor table, contact Bill Cole at (360) 586-4125 or [bill.cole@pwb.wa.gov](mailto:bill.cole@pwb.wa.gov)

- Requesting a tech team, contact Cathi Read at (360)

725-3016 or [cathir@cted.wa.gov](mailto:cathir@cted.wa.gov)

- Applying for a scholarship, contact Janice Roderick at (360) 725-3013 or [janicer@cted.wa.gov](mailto:janicer@cted.wa.gov)

- Sponsoring the conference, contact Bill Cole at (360) 586-4125 or [bill.cole@pwb.wa.gov](mailto:bill.cole@pwb.wa.gov)



*Continued from page 1*

staff, and community members/officials, and occur throughout the year to discuss projects, possible solutions, and financing options.

✦ Value engineering/analysis. We are seeing the benefits of value engineering/analysis and can begin sharing that information with communities.

✦ Sponsorship. IACC sponsored the Local Infrastructure Needs Assistance Survey (LINAS), and recent Tribal Infrastructure workshop, to name just two.

Acknowledgment. IACC was acknowledged in the recent OFM Inventory of Infrastruc-

ture Programs, as well as EPA's Handbook on Coordinating Funding for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure: A Compilation of State Approaches.

With progress comes change. IACC, and those affiliated with it, have seen a lot of change in the past few years. People have left, and new people have come onboard to fill their shoes. Programs have been restructured. With all this change, IACC is in need of some tender loving care, aka maintenance, particularly in the following areas:

The IACC website, [www.infrafunding.wa.gov](http://www.infrafunding.wa.gov), needs attention and a designee to periodically review for updates. Programs need to be

diligent in updating their information in the database. If you need a password to update your program information in the database, please contact Chris Reed, Transportation Improvement Board, at (360) 586-1140 or [ChrisR@tib.wa.gov](mailto:ChrisR@tib.wa.gov).

IACC is seeking a volunteer for the Secretary position. This position is in charge of announcing upcoming meetings and/or other events via email, ensuring meeting minutes are distributed, and IACC records are maintained.

If you are interested in volunteering for a position, please contact Cecilia Gardener at (360) 586-5127. It is important that everybody be involved.....

## Department of Ecology

### *Water Quality Financial Management Section Rule Revisions*

It is the goal of Ecology to review and update the Centennial Clean Water Program (Centennial) and the State Revolving Fund (SRF) rules in a way that provides clients' and stakeholders' consistency and transparency in these complex funding programs.

Many aspects of the management of the Centennial and the SRF have been addressed through rule, guidelines, and policy since 1988 and 1989 respectively. These two rules were last updated about five years ago.

Ecology entered the rule amendment process on September

2, 2005. The rule effective date is scheduled for July 29, 2007 (State Fiscal Year Funding Cycle 2009). [cpri461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:cpri461@ecy.wa.gov)

Current versions of the rules being amended:

- [Chapter 173-95A WAC - Uses and limitations of the Centennial Clean Water Fund](#)

[Chapter 173-98 WAC - Uses and limitations of the Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund](#)

Send rule amendment comments by email to: [cpri461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:cpri461@ecy.wa.gov)

Send rule amendment comments by email to:

CINDY PRICE  
RULE COMMENTS  
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT  
SECTION  
WATER QUALITY PROGRAM  
P.O. BOX 47600  
OLYMPIA, WA 98504

Phone: (360) 407-7132

An electronic version of your comments is appreciated so that they can be directly posted as written without the need to condense or paraphrase.





*Stevens County Courthouse in Colville. Photo by Michael Houser.*

## First Round of Grant Awards for Historic County Courthouse Rehabilitation

A statewide survey undertaken in 2003 found that 28 of the state's 39 counties had courthouses of historic merit. Additionally, the study estimated over \$90 million in needed rehabilitation to these structures.

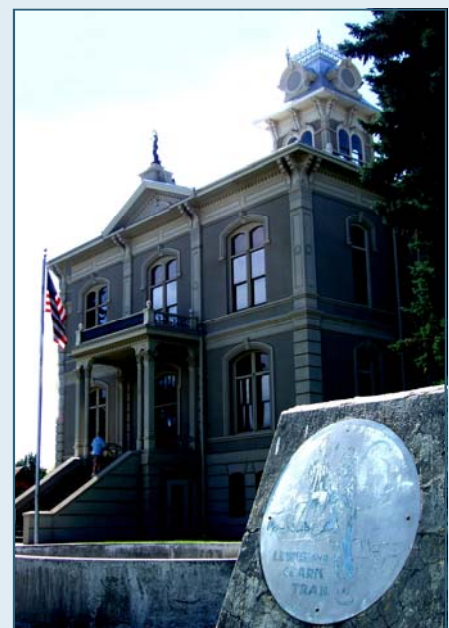
To address this need, the 2005 Legislature allocated \$5 million in the state's 2005-07 Biennium capital budget for qualified historic courthouse rehabilitation projects.

The Department of Ar-

chaeology and Historic Preservation administers the program in conjunction with the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation.

Over \$4 million has been awarded to eight counties across the state. Additionally, Jefferson County received a \$450,000 earmark to help with the stabilization of the courthouse clock tower.

*Historic Columbia County Courthouse in Dayton is the oldest working courthouse in Washington State. USDA Photo by Phil Eggman.*



## Washington's Community Development Block Grant Program Taking Steps To Assist Rural Communities



*Downtown Sprague, in rural Lincoln County.*

*By Steven K. Washington  
and Dan Riebli*

Many of Washington State's rural communities face stagnant population growth and limited or decreasing tax bases, resulting in reduced local revenue and constrained economic development opportunities.

Like many of their urban counterparts, these rural communities must meet the increasing needs of local residents with reduced resources.

In the past few years, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding has been used to meet the complex and unique needs of its rural communities.

A range of projects have been funded to upgrade failing or out-of-

compliance water and wastewater systems, create public facilities, engage in public service activities, rehabilitate housing units, and provide support for economic development.

The Small Communities Initiative (SCI) program, established in 1999, is a collaborative effort between the Departments of Community, Trade and Economic Development, Health and Ecology. Two CDBG staff members work with small rural communities that have regulatory compliance issues related to drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. SCI staff work with Health and Ecology staff to identify small communities in need of assistance.

The Community Investment Fund program was established to enable small rural communities to request funds on a year-round basis.

The CDBG Float Loan program provides smaller communities with a low-cost (2 percent interest) option for interim project loan financing rather than traditional bank financing at 6 percent interest.

Planning grants provide small communities a mechanism to evaluate feasibility, need, and costs before investing in major projects.

CDBG works with other programs - Departments of Health, Ecology, Public Works Board, and USDA Rural Development to identify cost-effective methods of financing local projects.

CDBG provides funding for value engineering studies through which high-cost projects are reviewed to find ways to reduce project costs (see examples on page 5).

The Washington State CDBG program has had great success in meeting infrastructure, housing, and economic development needs in rural communities; however, considerable need remains, and the demand for CDBG funds from rural communities across the state has increased.

Unfortunately, CDBG funds for rural communities has decreased in recent years. There was a 10 percent reduction in available funding from 2005-2006, and a proposed reduction of up to 25 percent for 2007.

*Steven K. Washington is managing director for community development programs in the Department of Community Trade and Economic Development in Washington State. Dan Riebli is CDBG supervisor in the Department of Community Trade and Economic Development.*



## Washington State's CDBG Funding at Work in Rural Communities

*CDBG provides funding for value engineering studies through which high-cost projects are reviewed to find ways to reduce project costs. The following are just a few examples of how local communities have used the available resources.*

### ***Town of Concrete:***

#### ***Wastewater Treatment Plant***

CDBG and SCI staff worked with the town of Concrete after it became clear that the town could not afford the wastewater treatment plant that had been recommended by the town engineer. A value engineering study funded by CDBG will save the town \$450,000. A funding package was put in place that includes funds from USDA Rural Development, Department of Ecology, county, and the CDBG program. Construction is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2006.

### ***Tieton and Cowiche:***

#### ***Sewage Treatment***

The town of Tieton and its unincorporated neighbor, Cowiche, both in Yakima County, were at an impasse for years regarding the development of a regional sewage treatment facility. In 1996, a moratorium on new connections to the wastewater treatment plant was placed on the town because it did not have the capacity to process additional sewage. At the same time, groundwater contamination was a problem for the nearby Cowiche Sewer District's filtration lagoons. The two communi-

ties separately sought funding to upgrade their treatment facilities, but potential funders were reluctant to support construction of two separate treatment facilities only three miles apart, and progress was stalled.

After months of SCI-facilitated, CDBG-funded negotiations, the two entities decided to build a new regional facility at Cowiche. The capital cost savings from building a single plant rather than two separate facilities was over \$1 million. CDBG provided a \$1 million grant to help keep the project affordable. It is estimated that the citizens of Tieton and Cowiche will realize savings of \$12–\$20 in their monthly sewage rates over the next 20 years. Additional cost savings will be achieved as a result of needing only one operations permit and from the reduced monitoring associated with one plant instead of two.

### ***Economic Development***

The Olympic Microloan Fund (OMF) is funded with Washington State CDBG dollars. This is a regional microenterprise revolving loan fund that serves nine rural counties. The project is funded through a lead county and managed by Cascadia Revolving Fund, an established nonprofit organization formed to serve small, low-income, and unbankable economic development projects.

Randy Maag opened his first Pet Town store in Port Townsend in 2000. The store sold pet food and supplies, and small pets. In 2001, he opened a second store in Sequim with an OMF loan. Maag paid off his loan in 2004; in 2005, he received another loan to open a third store in Belfair. The Belfair store has grown faster than the other two, and Maag has been able to quit his full-time job and devote himself to Pet Town. He has created six jobs since he started and expects total sales to top \$1 million in 2006. He may need future loans for expansion, but they won't be OMF loans: He has outgrown the program and is now bankable!



**COMMUNITY ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION BOARD****JOB DEVELOPMENT FUND****RECOMMENDED FUNDING LIST**

The Community Economic Revitalization Board has recommended the following 12 projects for Job Development Fund Program grants. The project requests total \$49,500,081. These projects were selected from 64 final applications requesting more than \$288 million in Job Development Fund grants.

City of Longview	Mint Farm Industrial Park Phase II Infrastructure Improvements	\$1,981,288
Skagit County	Fruitdale Road/McGarigle Road Improvements	\$2,277,000
City of Pacific	Valentine Road Corridor Improvements	\$4,946,000
City of Wenatchee	Wenatchee Waterfront Revitalization Project	\$10,000,000
City of Lacey	Northeast Lacey Public Infrastructure and Economic Stimulus Package	\$9,912,000
City of Soap Lake	Soap Lake Spa and Wellness Center	\$1,000,000
Port of Ephrata	Port of Ephrata Transportation Enhancements	\$470,745
Port of Anacortes	Project Pier 1	\$5,610,000
City of Kirkland	Totem Lake Mall and Business Center	\$3,000,000
City of Gig Harbor	Burnham/Borgen Interchange Improvements	\$5,000,000
Grays Harbor Public Development Authority	Satsop Development Park Turbine/Administration Building Improvements	\$5,053,048
City of Tacoma	Technical and Scientific Service Incubator	\$250,000

The Job Development Fund grant timeline is as follows:

- ✦ January 6, 2006: pre-applications were due
- ✦ April 3, 2006: applications were due
- ✦ April 2007: Legislature approves list

September 2007: Funding available to execute contracts

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE:**

CERB Job Development Fund Program

Telephone: 360.725.4049

E-mail: [cerbjdf@cted.wa.gov](mailto:cerbjdf@cted.wa.gov)

## Upcoming Events

Drinking Water Seminars provide public water system representatives with up-to-the-minute information to help lead operators and managers do their job. They will be held in five statewide locations in July. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/seminars.htm>.

The 3rd Annual Evergreen Rural Water Equipment Expo will be held July 14, 2006 at the Satsop Development Park. The expo will introduce you to the latest products and services available for water and wastewater personnel, public works personnel, engineers and survey crews, solid waste personnel and city clerks. For more information call 1-800-272-5981 or visit <http://www.erwow.org/equipmentexpo.htm>.

Department of Ecology's Water Quality Program will accept applications from September 1, 2006 through October 31, 2006. Workshops are tentatively scheduled for the first two weeks in September. For more information, visit [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq).

The largest statewide affordable housing conference, Housing Washington 2006, will take place September 11-12 in Bellevue at the Meydenbauer Center. For more information, visit [www.wshfc.org/conf](http://www.wshfc.org/conf), e-mail [conf@wshfc.org](mailto:conf@wshfc.org), or call the conference hotline at 800/767-HOME (4663) ext. 773.

The Washington Finance Officer Association will hold its annual conference September 13-16, 2006 in Tacoma, WA. See <http://www.wfoa.org/> for more information.

Washington Association of Sewer & Water Districts 2006 Fall Conference & Trade Show will be September 20- 22, at the Marriott Portland Downtown Hotel. For reservations, contact the Marriott Hotel in Portland, OR or (800) 228-9290, (503) 226-7600.

The National Rural Water Association's 2006 Conference will take place in Dallas, Texas September 24-27, 2006. For more information, access <http://www.nrwa.org/>.

The Washington State APWA Fall Conference will be held October 16-20, 2006 at the Wenatchee Convention Center. Contact (509) 664-3364 for more information.

The 2006 IACC Conference will be held October 31-November 2, 2006. For information, call Bill Cole, Public Works Board, at (360) 586-4125 or visit the IACC website at <http://www.infracfunding.wa.gov>.

The 2006 Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities (CIFA) Conference and SRF Workshop will be held November 12 – 14 at the Sheraton Society Hill, Philadelphia. More information is available on the CIFA website at <http://www.cifanet.org/conferences.html>.



WSDOT Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program project grant applications are due to WSDOT on September 20, 2006 - [http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/TA/ProgMgt/Grants/Ped\\_Bike.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/TA/ProgMgt/Grants/Ped_Bike.htm). Applications for Safe Routes to School project grants are due to WSDOT on October 2, 2006 - [http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/TA/ProgMgt/Grants/Safe\\_Routes.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/TA/ProgMgt/Grants/Safe_Routes.htm).



### A Success Story -

Norma Eddy had a serious electrical problem throughout her old Thurston County home. She and her family have lived in the rural countryside outside the Washington State capital of Olympia for nearly 50 years.

Norma, a Native American of the Snoqualmie Tribe, is not sure exactly how old her house is. "It was old when we bought the house," she said. In fact, Norma says the brick from her fireplace was said to have been made from the clay in her backyard.

**Norma Eddy took advantage of USDA Rural Development's home repair program to update the wiring in her Thurston County home.**

The electrical system consisted of old knob and tube wiring, the most widely used type of wiring in frame buildings up until the late 1920s. While not inherently dangerous, knob and tube wiring is old and its insulation may no longer be intact. To turn on a light, Norma would have to reach up and pull a cord coming from the fixture.

The insulation on Norma's wiring was cracked and frayed and even bare in some places. She risked a fire every time she turned on a light. In fact, home electrical problems account for 67,800 fires, 485 deaths, and \$868 million in property losses according to the United States Fire Administration Office of Fire Management Programs, with home electrical wiring causes twice as many fires as electrical appliances.

In other words, Norma's house was an accident waiting to happen.

Norma had to do something quick but she didn't know where to turn. She called a long list of people, keeping detailed notes from every call.

"I kept getting referred to one organization after another," she said in frustration. "I needed help quick and I was getting nowhere."

Finally, after about two months of calling and endless referrals, Norma stumbled on USDA Rural Development by accident. "I finally found someone who could help me," she said. Norma learned about and applied for a 504 loan/grant combination for \$12,500. She qualified for the 504 Grant lifetime maximum of \$7,500 to repair her electrical system and a 504 loan for \$5,000 to repair and replace a dangerously dilapidated deck that had been built by her husband many years earlier.

With the money in hand, Norma hired Huttman Electric Inc. based out of Olympia, to replace her electrical system. According to Owner Werner Huttman, Norma's wiring was the worst he had seen in the 22 years his company has been in business. "It's a miracle her house didn't burn down," he said.

Huttman had a team of four electricians working over five days to remove the old wiring and replace it with new wiring, a modern junction box, switches, and plug receptacles. "Mrs. Eddy was so grateful that she wrote us a nice letter to thank us, which was very nice," he recalled.

"I am real happy," she said. "I don't have to worry about those old exposed wires catching my house on fire and I can now I can turn on my lights just like everyone else."

## USDA Rural Development Offers Home Repair Loans & Grants To Rural Households

USDA Rural Development provides home repair loans and grants to qualified very low income homeowners living in rural areas of Washington State.

This program can work very well in conjunction with the need for homeowners to connect to new or improved public sewer and/or water systems in rural communities.

Applicants may also use the funds to repair or improve their home, remove health and safety hazards, weatherize, pay for installation costs for on site utilities, and/or provide accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Repairs to manufactured housing are authorized provided the applicant owns the land and the home is on a permanent foundation or will be placed on a permanent foundation.

Applicants must be unable to obtain conventional financing elsewhere, have a satisfactory credit history

and have reliable and dependable income. Maximum loan limit is \$20,000. Interest rate is 1 percent fixed for a term of up to 20 years.

Senior Citizens (age 62 or older), who meets the above criteria but do not show repayment ability for a loan, may be eligible for a Home Repair Grant or loan/grant combination.

This grant has a lifetime limit of \$7,500 and may only be used for repairs and improvements that remove health and safety hazards or to repair or remodel dwellings to make them accessible for household members with disabilities.

USDA Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities. For more information about USDA Rural Development's Home Repair Program, please go to our web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wa/sfh.htm>.



## WSDOT Offers Grants for Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Projects

Washington's communities have an opportunity to increase safety for bicyclists and pedestrians through two grant programs managed by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).

Fourteen million in grant funds is available through state and federal program funds for local bicycle and pedestrian projects. WSDOT today issued a "call for projects" that support walking and biking. Project proposals that support walking and biking are due September 20, 2006.

The [Safe Routes to Schools](#) program was created to provide children a safe, healthy alternative to riding the bus or being driven to school. This program has \$7 million of federal funds available to public agencies. Eligible projects are those within two-miles of primary and middle schools (K-8), and that address engineering solutions, educational programs, and law enforcement efforts. Applications for Safe Routes to School project grants are due to WSDOT on October 2, 2006.

Another \$7 million in state funds is available through the [Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety](#) program. This program aids public agencies in funding projects that improve pedestrian and bicycle safety. Eligible projects may include engineering solutions, educational programs, and enforcement efforts. Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety project grant applications are due to WSDOT on September 20, 2006.



More detailed information about these grant programs and the application process is available on WSDOT's website at: [http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/TA/ProgMgt/Grants/Ped\\_Bike.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/TA/ProgMgt/Grants/Ped_Bike.htm)  
[http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/TA/ProgMgt/Grants/Safe\\_Routes.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/TA/ProgMgt/Grants/Safe_Routes.htm)



## WaWizQuiz

<http://access.wa.gov/washington/WAWizQuiz.aspx>  
*Answers on Page 10*



**Question 1: The extremely rare rock 'Dunite' makes up what northern mountain in Washington State?**

- Mt. St. Helens
- Twin Sisters Mountain
- Mount Adams
- Mount Hood

**Question 2: What Washington Territory resulted from the reduction of what larger area?**

- The Territory of Idaho
- The Territory of Columbia
- The Territory of California
- The Territory of Oregon

**Question 3: What Washington mountaineer shares the honor of being the first American to top the world's second highest peak, K2?**

- Jim Whittaker
- Jim Wickwire
- Lou Whittaker
- Willy Unsoeld

**Question 4: A spelling error named what Washington Town?**

- Eglon of Kitsap County
- Artic of Grays Harbor County
- Cle Elum of Kittitas County
- Asotin of Asotin County



**IACC**  
**PO Box 48319**  
**Olympia, WA**  
**98504-8319**

**Phone: 360-586-4123**  
**Fax: 360-664-3029**  
*Chris.Gagnon@DOH.WA.GOV*

## WaWizQuiz Answers



**Answer 1**—Dunfrie consists almost entirely of the mineral 'Olivine' and makes the Twin Sisters Mountain east of Bellingham one of the most extraordinary bodies of rock in the country.

**Answer 2**—The Territory of Oregon was divided in 1853. Politically dissatisfied settlers living north of the Columbia River requested their own territorial status.

**Answer 3**—Jim Wickwire and Lou Reichardt are the first two Americans to summit the 28,250 foot mountain peak, K2, in 1978. Wickwire is probably best known in climbing circles for his ascent up K2 and the famous unplanned bivouac he endured just a few hundred feet below the summit.

**Answer 4**—The town of Artic was to be named 'Arta' after the wife of the town founder. The application was misread and resulted in the unusual spelling of the word Artic. Can you tell what letter is missing?



*What is a summer issue without a summer photo, such as this brave flyer who was piloting his Ultralight aircraft over Ocean Shores. USDA Rural Development Photo by Don Wagoner*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*The following people contributed to this newsletter: Phil Eggman, Sandi Boughton, USDA RD; Stephanie Tax, WSDOT; Cindy Price, Ecology; Michael Houser, DAHP; Steve Washington and Dan Riebli, CTED CDBG. A special thanks to Phil Eggman, USDA RD, for his work in designing the newsletter.*

*The intent of this newsletter is that it be a work in progress, continually evolving to incorporate the clever ideas of IACC members. Newsletter ideas and suggestions are appreciated, and can be sent to Chris Gagnon at (360) 236-3095 or [chris.gagnon@doh.wa.gov](mailto:chris.gagnon@doh.wa.gov). Past issues are available by visiting the IACC website at [www.infracfunding.wa.gov](http://www.infracfunding.wa.gov).*